

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A method for manufacturing a length of six-link rope chain, comprising:
 - providing a material comprising a precious metal;
 - forming generally C-shaped link elements from said material to define a gap between facing ends thereof, each link element having an axis, a first major surface perpendicular to said axis, an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis, an interior edge, and an exterior edge having at least a flat linear surface portion parallel to said axis, said parallel portion being smooth and highly light reflective; and
 - assembling a plurality of said link elements to produce a length of six-link rope chain.
2. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
 - transitions between said major surfaces and said exterior edge define corners; and
 - in forming said link elements, at least one corner is rounded.
3. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
 - said material is a sheet of material having a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties; whereby
 - link elements formed from said sheet of material comprises a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties.
4. The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein said different visual properties are selected from the group consisting of different colors, different surface textures, different reflectivities, different materials, different gold karat

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weights, different shapes, different patterns, different sizes, and different designs.

5. The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said different visual properties are different surface textures; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

6. The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different colors; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

7. The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different reflectivities; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

8. The method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different materials; and

forming said link element includes forming at least one of said regions of different surface textures employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

9. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said at least one link element is formed with a varying cross section along the extent of such link element.

10. The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

a cross section of said link element at a first location along the extent of said link element is of a first configuration;

a cross section of said link element at a second location along the extent of said link element is of a second configuration; and

the cross section of said link continuously changes along its extent from said first location to said second location.

11. The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein:

a cross section of said link element at a first location along the extent of said link element is of a first configuration;

a cross section of said link element at a second location along the extent of said link element is of a second configuration; and

the cross section of said link changes in discrete stages along its extent from said first location to said second location.

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12. The method as claimed in Claim 1, comprising:
treating said exterior edge to have enhanced reflectivity.
13. The method as claimed in Claim 3, wherein:
forming a link element from said material includes stamping said sheet of material with a stamping device.
14. The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said material is a sheet of material;
said at least one link element is stamped from said sheet of material in a stamping procedure; and
at least a portion of said link element has a textured surface formed during said stamping procedure.
15. A length of six-link jewelry rope chain manufactured by the method as claimed in Claim 1.
16. A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:
a first major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis;
an interior edge; and
an exterior edge having at least a flat linear surface portion parallel to said axis, said parallel portion being smooth and highly light reflective.
17. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

said at least one link element comprises a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties.

18. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17, wherein said different visual properties are selected from the group consisting of different colors, different surface textures, different reflectivities, different materials, different gold karat weights, different shapes, different patterns, different sizes, and different designs.

19. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17, wherein at least one region of said regions of different visual properties is textured by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

20. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different colors; and

at least one of said regions of different surface textures is formed therein by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

21. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different reflectivities; and

at least one of said regions of different surface textures is formed therein by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

22. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 17, wherein:

said regions of different visual properties include regions of different surface textures superimposed on said regions of different materials; and

at least one of said regions of different surface textures is formed therein by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

23. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

said at least one link element is formed with a varying cross section along the extent of such link element.

24. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 23, wherein:

a cross section of said at least one link element at a first location along the extent of said at least one link element is of a first configuration;

a cross section of said at least one link element at a second location along the extent of said at least one link element is of a second configuration; and

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the cross section of said at least one link element continuously changes along its extent from said first location to said second location.

25. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 23, wherein:

a cross section of said at least one link element at a first location along the extent of said at least one link element is of a first configuration;

a cross section of said at least one link element at a second location along the extent of said at least one link element is of a second configuration; and

the cross section of said at least one link changes in discrete stages along its extent from said first location to said second location.

26. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

said exterior edge is treated to have enhanced reflectivity.

27. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:

said at least one link element is stamped from a sheet of material in a stamping procedure; and

at least a portion of said link element has a textured surface formed during said stamping procedure.

28. A method for manufacturing a length of rope chain comprised of a plurality of link elements assembled to form a length of six-link rope chain, said method comprising:

providing an elongated strip of material having a prescribed length, width, and thickness;

forming said strip into a generally C-shaped rope chain link element to define a gap between facing ends thereof, said

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formed link element having an axis, a first major surface perpendicular to said axis, an opposite second major surface perpendicular to said axis, an interior edge, and an exterior edge having at least a flat linear surface portion parallel to said axis, said parallel portion being smooth and highly light reflective; and

assembling a plurality of said link elements to form a length of six-link rope chain.

29. The method as claimed in Claim 28, comprising:

providing a sheet of material having a plurality of regions, adjacent ones of which exhibit different visual properties; and

slicing said elongated strip from said sheet of material, whereby the formed link element so produced comprises portions of said sheet of material that exhibit at least two different ones of said visual properties.

30. The method as claimed in Claim 29, comprising:

producing a pattern of textured segments on at least one surface of said elongated strip prior to forming said strip into a generally C-shaped link element.

31. The method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein:

providing a sheet of material having a plurality of regions includes providing said sheet of material having a flat, smooth, highly reflective surface which defines said smooth and highly reflective exterior surface portion of said link element.

32. The method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein said different visual properties are selected from the group consisting of different colors, different surface textures, different reflectivities, different materials, different gold karat

weights, different shapes, different patterns, different sizes, and different designs.

33. The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein providing said strip of material includes texturing at least one of said regions by employing at least one process selected from the group consisting of serrating, scoring, knurling, lining, patterning, pressure stamping, impressing, sandblasting, etching, shaping, polishing, matting, frosting, and diamond cutting.

34. The method as claimed in Claim 28, comprising:
treating said exterior edge portion to have enhanced reflectivity.

35. The method as claimed in Claim 28, comprising:
forming a textured surface on at least a portion of said link element in a stamping operation.

36. A length of jewelry rope chain manufactured by the method as claimed in Claim 28.

37. A length of jewelry rope chain comprising a series of tightly interfitting gapped link elements and having the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands, wherein:

said first and second helical strands exhibit at least two distinctly different visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials, along the length of said rope chain.

38. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein at least one of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped and comprises:

a first major surface; and

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an opposite second major surface; wherein
link thickness is defined as a distance between and
perpendicular to planes containing said first and second major
surfaces;

a portion of said link element has a first link
thickness; and

another portion of said link element has a second link
thickness less than said first link thickness.

39. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 38,
wherein:

a major surface of said link element portion having said
second link thickness is textured.

40. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 38,
wherein:

at least one other portion of said link element has
a link thickness less than that of said first or second link
thickness.

41. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37,
wherein:

said different visual properties are selected from the
group of visual properties consisting of color, texture, and
- karat weight;

one of said first and second helical strands exhibits at
least one visual property selected from the group consisting
of color, texture, and karat weight; and

the other of said helical strands exhibits at least one
visual property selected from the group consisting of color,
texture, and karat weight different than that of said first
strand.

42. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37,
wherein:

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first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property different than the other side of said one channel.

43. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein:

first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

44. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein:

first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

both sides of one channel exhibit visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

45. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein:

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first and second helical channels are defined at the transition between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of both channels exhibits visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

46. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein:

the most outwardly portions of said first and second helical rope strands are defined, respectively, as first and second helical outer periphery regions; and

said first periphery region exhibits a visual property different than that of the rest of the length of rope chain.

47. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein:

said gapped link elements have a generally rectangular C-shaped configuration with two spaced apart long sides joined by two spaced apart short ends, a gap located at one of said short ends; and

one of said long sides has a textured surface.

48. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein said gapped link elements are generally square in shape, having two spaced apart straight sides joined by two spaced apart straight ends, a gap located at one of said ends; and

one of said straight sides has a textured surface.

49. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein said gapped link elements are generally square in shape, having two spaced apart straight sides joined by two

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spaced apart straight ends, a gap located at one of said ends;
and

one of said straight sides has a link width greater than
that of the other of said straight sides.

50. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37,
wherein:

said gapped link elements are generally oval in shape,
having two spaced apart long curved sides and two spaced apart
short curved ends, a gap located at one of said short ends;
and

one of said long sides has a textured surface.

51. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37,
wherein:

said gapped link elements are generally diamond-shaped,
having two spaced apart angled sides and two spaced apart
angled ends, a gap located at one of said angled ends; and
one of said angled sides has a textured surface.

52. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37,
wherein:

said gapped link elements are generally heart-shaped,
having two spaced apart curved sides and two spaced apart
ends, said ends having, respectively, an outwardly directed
apex and an inwardly directed inverted apex, a gap located at
said end with the outwardly directed apex; and
one of said sides is textured.

53. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37,
wherein:

each of said gapped link elements has a first major
surface, an opposite second major surface, an interior edge,
and an exterior edge; and

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said first major surface exhibits a visual property different than that of said second major surface.

54. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 53, wherein said link elements are assembled to configure a rope chain having an axis, and wherein the visual properties of said rope strands differ from one another when viewed in a first axial direction, and at least one of said strands differs in visual properties when viewed in said first axial direction as compared to that as viewed in the opposite, second, axial direction.

55. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said link elements has a first major surface, an opposite second major surface, an interior edge, and an exterior edge, and wherein each said link element comprises:

a first link layer having the shape and configuration of said link elements, but with half the link thickness defined as the distance between said first major surface and said second major surface of said link element; and

a second link layer having the same shape, configuration, and thickness as said first link layer; wherein

said two link layers are joined together by bonding one major surface of said first link layer with a major surface of said second link layer to form said link element; and

the exposed major surface of said first link layer exhibits a different visual property than the exposed major surface of said second link layer.

56. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

a first major surface;

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an opposite second major surface;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

the exterior edge of one of said arms has scalloped segments; and

the exterior edge of the other of said arms is smooth and absent scalloped segments.

57. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 56, wherein:

at least one scalloped segment has a textured surface.

58. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 57, wherein said textured surface is a major surface of said link element.

59. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 57, wherein said textured surface is the exterior edge of said scalloped segment.

60. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 57, wherein one scalloped segment is textured differently than other scalloped segments.

61. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

a first major surface;

an opposite second major surface;

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an interior edge; and

an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion; and

the link width of one of said arms progressively increases from said gap toward the center of said one arm, progressively increases from said heel toward said arm center, and decreases in the vicinity of said arm center.

62. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 61, wherein the other of said arms is textured on at least one of said first major surface, second major surface, and exterior edge.

63. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

a first major surface;

an opposite second major surface;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion; and

the exterior edge of said link element is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at the location of said heel.

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64. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 63, wherein said exterior edge is further shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at the location of said gap.

65. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

- a first major surface;
- an opposite second major surface;
- an interior edge; and
- an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion; and

the exterior edge of said link element is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at a first location between said gap and the center of said one arm, and at a second location between said heel and said arm center.

66. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 65, wherein link width is decreased at the arm center of the other arm.

67. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 65, wherein said link element is textured on at least one of said first major surface, second major surface, and exterior edge.

68. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends

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thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

- a first major surface;
- an opposite second major surface;
- an interior edge; and
- an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion; and

the exterior edge of said link element is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at a location on one of said arms between said gap and the center of said one arm.

69. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 68, wherein said one arm is textured at a location between said heel and said one arm center.

70. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 68, wherein the other one of said arms is shaped to reduce link width on a portion of said link element at a location on the other one of said arms between said heel and the center of said other arm.

71. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 70, wherein:

said link element is textured on a major surface at one of said arm locations; and

said link element is textured on the exterior surface of the other of said arm locations.

72. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-

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shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

- a first major surface;
- an opposite second major surface;
- an interior edge; and
- an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

at least one of said arms has a single flat surface formed on its exterior edge parallel to a line passing through said gap and said heel; and

at least one of said flat surface and a major surface in the vicinity of said flat surface is textured.

73. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 72, wherein:

- a single flat surface is formed on both said arms; and
- at least one of said flat surfaces is textured.

74. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

- a first major surface;
- an opposite second major surface;
- an interior edge; and
- an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

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each of said arms has a single flat surface formed on its exterior edge parallel to a line passing through said gap and said heel; and

at least one major surface of at least one of said arms is textured.

75. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

- a first major surface;
- an opposite second major surface;
- an interior edge; and
- an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion;

said link element is D-shaped, one of said arms having a substantially straight portion, and the other of said arms having a substantially semi-circular portion; and

one of said straight portion and said semi-circular portion is textured.

76. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

- a first major surface;
- an opposite second major surface;
- an interior edge; and
- an exterior edge; wherein:

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a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion; said link element is annular with a substantially circular cross section;

a plurality of flat surfaces are formed on said exterior edge of one of said arms; and

at least one major surface of said one arm is textured.

77. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

a first major surface;
an opposite second major surface;
an interior edge; and
an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion; said link element is annular;

the exterior edge of at least one arm is textured; and
a plurality of flat surfaces are formed on said exterior edge of one of said arms superimposed over said textured exterior edge.

78. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 37, wherein each of said gapped link elements is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, and at least one of said gapped link elements comprises:

a first major surface;

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an opposite second major surface;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge; wherein:

a heel portion of said link element is defined as that portion directly opposite said gap;

a link arm is defined as a part of the link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion; said link element is annular with a substantially circular cross section;

a plurality of flat surfaces are formed on said exterior edge of one of said arms; and

said plurality of flat surfaces are arranged in serial fashion along the extent of the exterior edge of said one arm with little or no space between said flat surfaces.

79. A length of jewelry rope chain comprising a series of tightly interfitting gapped link elements and having the appearance of intertwining first and second helical rope strands, wherein:

at least one of said first and second helical strands exhibits multiple visual properties.

80. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property different than the other side of said channel.

81. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

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first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property the same as that of the other side of said one channel.

82. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of one channel exhibits a visual property different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

83. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

both sides of one channel exhibit visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

84. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

one side of both channels exhibits visual properties different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

85. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

both sides of both channels exhibit a visual property different than the rest of the length of rope chain.

86. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical outer periphery regions are defined on the most outwardly portion of said first and second helical rope strands, respectively; and

said first periphery region exhibits a visual property different than that of said second periphery region.

87. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical outer periphery regions are defined on the most outwardly portion of said first and second helical rope strands, respectively; and

said first periphery region exhibits the same visual property as said second periphery region.

88. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 79, wherein:

first and second helical outer periphery regions are defined on the most outwardly portion of said first and second helical rope strands, respectively;

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first and second helical channels are defined between said intertwined first and second helical rope strands;

each channel has two sides which include respective portions of adjacent ones of said first and second rope strands; and

said helical outer periphery regions and said channel sides exhibit combinations of visual properties selected from the group consisting of different colors, different surface textures, different reflectivities, different materials, different gold karat weights, different shapes, different patterns, different sizes, and different designs.

89. A method for manufacturing a length of jewelry rope chain, comprising:

providing a length of material having side edges, side-by-side adjacent elongated regions exhibiting different visual properties, and an axis along the length of the material;

rolling said length of material about a line parallel to said axis and into a generally cylindrical shape with said side edges facing one another across a gap parallel to said sides;

cutting across said rolled lengths of material to form generally C-shaped link elements, said link elements exhibiting adjacent segments of different visual properties; and

assembling a plurality of said link elements to produce a length of rope chain.

90. A length of jewelry rope chain constructed of a plurality of link elements of precious metal assembled to form a length of rope chain, wherein each of said link elements has an axis and is generally C-shaped in configuration to define a gap between facing ends thereof, at least one of said link elements comprises:

a first major surface;

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an opposite second major surface;

an interior edge; and

an exterior edge; wherein

a heel portion of said at least one link element is defined as a portion directly opposite said gap;

link width is defined as the distance between said interior and said exterior edges at any point along the extent of said link element;

said exterior edge is formed with shape variations to enhance the outward appearance of said length of rope chain; and

said interior edge is formed with shape variations to reduce the amount of precious metal used in the manufacture of said at least one link element.

91. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 90, wherein:

said interior and exterior shape variations are complementary at said heel portion to maintain a prescribed length width at said heel portion.

92. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 90, wherein said interior and exterior shape variations are complementary at said gap portion to maintain a prescribed link width of said facing ends at the location of said gap.

93. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 90, wherein:

said interior edge is formed with a void at said heel portion; and

said exterior edge is formed with an outwardly directed extended portion at said heel portion at a location opposite said void to maintain a prescribed minimum link width at said heel portion.

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94. The length of jewelry rope chain as claimed in Claim 90, wherein:

a link arm is defined as a part of said link element between either one of said facing ends and said heel portion, a center of a link arm being midway between said gap and said heel portion;

one of said link arms has an exterior edge that progressively increases in distance from the other link arm to a maximum distance at the center of said one arm; and

said interior edge of said one link arm is shaped to reduce the link width at said one link arm center.

95. A method for manufacturing a length of jewelry rope chain, comprising:

providing first link elements that are, at least partially, hollow;

providing second link elements that are, at least partially, solid in cross section; and

assembling said first and second link elements to form a rope chain.

96. The method as claimed in Claim 95, comprising:

providing said first link elements as part hollow and part solid;

providing said second link elements as part hollow and part solid; and

assembling said first and second link elements to form a rope chain.

97. The method as claimed in Claim 95, comprising:

providing said first link elements as part hollow and part solid;

providing said second link elements as wholly hollow; and
assembling said first and second link elements to form a rope chain.

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98. The method as claimed in Claim 95, comprising:
providing said first link elements as part hollow and part solid;
providing said second link elements as wholly solid; and
assembling said first and second link elements to form a rope chain.

99. The method as claimed in Claim 95, comprising:
in providing said first or second link elements which are at least in part solid, forming a solid portion of such link elements to have an exterior edge extending laterally farther outwardly from an axis of said length of rope chain than any hollow portion; and

diamond cutting an assembled length of rope chain in a desired pattern and at a depth such that the outer periphery of said solid portion is diamond cut, and the outer periphery of said hollow portion is either not cut or is only slightly cut without penetration through said hollow portion to the interior of said hollow portion.

100. The method as claimed in Claim 95, wherein:

said first link elements are provided as fully hollow in cross section;

said second link elements are provided as fully solid in cross section; and

said assembling operation comprises continuously assembling, alternately, a plurality of hollow link elements followed by a plurality of solid link elements, to form a rope chain.

101. A method for manufacturing a length of jewelry rope chain, comprising:

providing a length of material having side-by-side adjacent elongated regions exhibiting different visual properties;

cutting a segment from said length of material to produce an elongated strip segment, said elongated strip segment exhibiting adjacent regions of said different visual properties and having spaced apart elongated side edges;

in a first bending operation, bending said elongated strip segment to form a tubular member with said side edges facing one another across a gap parallel to said side edges, the tubular member having a longitudinal axis and exhibiting adjacent regions of said visual properties;

in a second bending operation, bending said tubular member, in a plane containing its longitudinal axis, into a C-shape configuration, defining a C-shaped link element exhibiting adjacent regions of said different visual properties; and

assembling a plurality of said link elements to produce a length of rope chain.

102. A method for manufacturing a length of jewelry rope chain, comprising:

providing a plurality of link elements, each of which has a first major surface, an opposite second major surface, an interior edge, and an exterior edge;

texturing at least a portion of at least one of said first major surface, second major surface, interior edge, and exterior edge; and

assembling a plurality of said link elements to produce a length of rope chain.

103. The method as claimed in Claim 102, wherein:

at least some said link elements are provided with at least a portion thereof exhibiting a visual property different than the visual property of another portion thereof, prior to being textured.

104. The method as claimed in Claim 103, wherein:

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each said visual property is selected from the group consisting of different colors, different textures, and different materials.